

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DEPT FOR EUR/CE - FLATIN

DEPT ALSO PASS NRC, ATTN: MR. KOUTS

COMMERCE FOR MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA'S SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT: PROPOSED
VISIT BY GOA OFFICIALS TO US

1. GENERAL ELECTRIC IN ITS EFFORTS TO WIN AUSTRIA'S
SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT AWARD IS IN PROCESS OF ARRANGING
SERIES OF GROUP VISITS BY KEY AUSTRIAN DECISION-MAKERS
TO US TO VISIT GE INSTALLATIONS. GE IS PARTICULARLY
CONCERNED THAT AUSTRIANS MAY BE UNINTENTIONALLY BIASED
TOWARDS GERMAN SPECIFICATIONS AND SAFETY STANDARDS AND
WISHES TO OFFSET ANY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS RE US SAFETY
STANDARDS. AMONG THOSE GE WOULD WANT TO INVITE ARE
TEN KEY GOA OFFICIALS. SOME OF THESE OFFICIALS, HOW-
EVER, HAVE INDICATED TO GE THAT WHILE THEY WOULD
WELCOME A VISIT TO THE US, THEY DO NOT BELIEVE NECESSARY
PERMISSION BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERS WOULD BE
GRANTED FOR PURELY PRIVATE VISIT.

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2. GE HAS INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER USG WOULD CONSIDER

INVITING SELECTED GOA OFFICIALS TO STATES FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH US AUTHORITIES IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY. THERE WOULD BE NO EXPENSE INVOLVED FOR USG. GOA WOULD PAY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND OFFICIAL PORTION OF VISIT. WITH OFFICIAL INVITATION GE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT KEY OFFICIALS INVOLVED WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO ACCEPT SUCH INVITATION. IDEALLY, GE HAS IN MIND WEEK OF AUGUST 18. AFTER OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF TWO OR AT MOST THREE DAYS, OFFICIALS WOULD THEN BE GUESTS OF GE FOR BALANCE OF WEEK.

3. GE SUGGESTS OFFICIAL PROGRAM INCLUDE VISITS TO IDAHO FALLS TO SEE LOFT PLENUM FILL TEST, AND HEAVY STEEL PROGRAM AT OAKRIDGE. GE PLANS TO SHOW GROUP THEIR FACILITIES AT WILMINGTON AND SAN JOSE. GE OFFICIALS BELIEVE AUSTRIANS WOULD ALSO BE AMENABLE TO DISCUSSING POSSIBLE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD THEN BE BENEFICIAL TO AUSTRIA.

4. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH US MISSION TO IAEA, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF OFFICIAL INVITATION ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT NO EXPENSE TO USG INVOLVED. QUITE APART FROM GE'S INTEREST, A VISIT BY GOA OFFICIALS TO US WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TIMELY SINCE NUCLEAR SAFETY HAS BECOME VERY LIVELY AND SENSITIVE ISSUE IN AUSTRIA. AS EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN AUSTRIA CONCERNING ALLEGED SAFETY HAZARDS OF US NUCLEAR REACTORS.

5. ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES INVITATION AND OFFICIAL PROGRAM ALONG LINES OUTLINED ABOVE CAN BE ARRANGED. FOLLOWING ARE NAMES OF PROPOSED INVITEES:

- A. MINISTERIALRAT DIRECTOR RICHARD POLACZEK
IN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY.
- B. SECTION CHIEF, DR. WILHELM FRANK, ENERGY SECTION,
MINISTRY OF TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
- C. MINISTERIALRAT DR. F. BOLHAR-NORDENKAMPF, ENERGY
SECTION, MINISTRY OF TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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- D. SEKTIONS RAT DR. G.E. OBERMAIR, ENERGY SECTION,
MINISTRY OF TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
- E. DR. H.J. PINDUR, SECTION CHIEF, MINISTRY FOR
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
- F. DR. MUHLBERGER, MINISTERIALRAT, MINISTRY FOR
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- G. PROFESSOR DR. H. GRUEMM, FEDERAL STUDY COMPANY
FOR NUCLEAR POWER.

H. DKFM. BADERLE, FEDERAL STUDY CO. FOR NUCLEAR POWER
I. DIPL. ING. W. BINNER, FEDERAL STUDY CO. FOR NUCLEAR POWER
J. DR. F. PUTZ, FEDERAL STUDY CO. FOR NUCLEAR POWER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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